

Wisconsin's Network for Safety (WINS) in Child Support

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) has been awarded the Safe Access for Victims' Economic Security (SAVES) Demonstration Grant from the federal Office of Child Support Services. Wisconsin joins 12 other grantees on a journey to promote safe and full access to child support and parenting time services for survivors of domestic violence (DV). Grantees include Colorado, Georgia, Lac Courte Oreilles, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. DCF's initiative is named "Wisconsin's Network for Safety (WINS) in Child Support".

A foundational component of SAVES is close collaboration and partnership with community, state, tribal, and national DV experts and engagement of individuals with lived experience of DV. WINS is proud to partner with the Lac Courte Oreilles Child Support Agency's SAVES programming, named, Gaawiin Geyaabi, for planning, collaboration and implementation of the SAVES grant goals and activities.

The priority population is victims/survivors needing and wanting child support and parenting time services.

The overall goal of the SAVES grant is to increase safe access to child support and parenting time services for victims/survivors of DV. The grant supports development and implementation of DV expert-informed, comprehensive policies and procedures for the following:

- Establishing paternity with additional safeguards for the in-hospital voluntary paternity process to avoid the potential for coerced "voluntary" completions of paternity acknowledgments.
- Implementing or modifying child support and parenting time orders
- Connecting victims/survivors to essential supportive community services
- Identifying and mitigating disparities in access caused by the victimization
- Adopting case management strategies to manage interactions with parents who have used violence

WINS will consist of the following components:

- Policy development and implementation
 - Training for child support, judicial system, and DV program staff
 - Cross-system coordination
 - Enhancement of safe access to child support and parenting time legal practice
 - Public and victim/survivor education and outreach strategies
 - Implementation of evidence-informed screening and response protocols
 - Development of responsive good cause policies and procedures for victims/survivors receiving public benefits
 - Implementation of comprehensive, DV expert-informed case processing practices for victims/survivors and perpetrators
- Engagement of individuals with lived experience to inform and guide all aspects of demonstration implementation via establishment and assessment of specialized DV triage teams